

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, CO

SUBJECT: ALPHA HELIX EXPEDITION - PHASE VII

REF: (A) BOGOTA 12053, (B) STATE 277607

1. DEPT APPRECIATES RESPONSE TO REFTEL (B) BUT IS
CONCERNED AND PERPLEXED BY APPARENT GOC RETURN TO
BASIC REQUIREMENTS WHICH DEPT HAD ASSUMED WERE ALREADY
AGREED TO OR FULFILLED. TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS STATEMENT
IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO SUMMARIZE THE EVENTS SINCE THE
CLEARANCE REQUEST WAS INITIALLY MADE TO THE GOC.

----(A) IN APRIL 1976 THE DEPT RECEIVED BOGOTA 4263
WHICH STATED THAT THE GOC AUTHORIZED THE EXPEDITION
PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS BE MET FOR PHASES
I, II AND VII. DEPT RESPONDED WITH STATE 131888,
AGREEING TO MOST OF REQUIREMENTS AND REQUESTED A COPY
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OF DECREE 626 B TO DETERMINE ITS APPLICABILITY.

----(B) ON 23 JUNE DEPT RECEIVED BOGOTA 6461 STATING
THAT GOC'S OPINION WAS THAT DECREE 626 B CLEARLY WAS
APPLICABLE AND THAT THE DIRECTORS OF THE EXPEDITION
SHOULD CONTACT DR. ALVARO SOTO TO DETERMINE APPLICA-
BILITY. THE CABLE ALSO STATED THAT EACH COLOMBIAN

AGENCY WOULD DESIGNATE ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVE. DEPT

RESPONDED ON 29 JUNE (STATE 161277) INDICATING THAT DR. SCHULTES WAS ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH SOTO AND THAT TRAVEL EXPENSES WOULD BE PAID BUT THERE WERE NO FUNDS FOR SALARIES.

----(C) ON 9 JULY (STATE 170161) DEPT REQUESTED FINAL GOC DECISION ON CLEARANCE FOR ALL PHASES IN COLOMBIA BASED ON STATE 131888 GIVING SCRIPPS' POSITION ON BOGOTA 6461, AND AGREEMENTS SINCE BOGOTA 6461. ON 28 JULY (BOGOTA 7564) EMBASSY RESPONDED THAT GOC GRANTED OFFICIAL APPROVAL FOR ALL PHASES OF ALPHA HELIX EXPEDITION IN COLOMBIAN TERRITORY.

----(D) ON 30 JULY (STATE 189506) DEPT TRANSMITTED DR. SCHULTES' SELECTIONS FOR GOC PARTICIPATION BASED ON CONSULTATIONS AND CONCURRENCE WITH DRS. CARRIZOSA, SOTO AND PINTO. IF UNACCEPTABLE, GOC WAS ASKED TO NAME PREFERRED ALTERNATES AS IT WAS IMPORTANT TO FIRM UP SCIENTIFIC PARTY.

----(E) DEPT RECEIVED BOGOTA 8496 (AUGUST) AND BOGOTA 10209 (OCTOBER) STATING THAT PARTICIPANTS HAD NOT BEEN NAMED. DR. PINTO RAISED ISSUE THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED DETAILED INFORMATION DR. SCHULTES PROMISED. ON 5 NOV, SCRIPPS MAILED DR. PINTO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PHASE VII.

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2. THE FOREGOING CHRONOLOGY SUGGESTS THAT ALL REQUIREMENTS WERE AGREED TO BY SCRIPPS AND THAT THE GOC AUTHORIZED ALL PHASES TO BE CONDUCTED IN COLOMBIA. PHASES I AND II WERE COMPLETED WITH ALL VERBAL REPORTS INDICATING THAT THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL AND THERE WAS SINCERE COOPERATION AND CORDIALITY BY ALL PARTIES. THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION WAS RESOLVED IN THAT INA, ICN AND INDERENA WERE LEFT TO SELECT WHOMEVER THEY PLEASSED AND IN ADDITION ONE NAVAL OBSERVER COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO NAME THE PARTICIPANTS WAS WITH THESE AGENCIES.

3. (A) ALL QUESTIONS RAISED IN EMBASSY'S LATEST REFTEL HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED AND ALL INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO GOC EITHER BY EMBASSY, SCRIPPS OR DR. SCHULTES DIRECTLY, OR DURING PRE-EXPEDITION VISIT ARRANGED BY EMBASSY IN FEBRUARY 1976. CONCERNING ARTICLE THREE OF DECREE 626 B IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXPEDITION IS WILLING TO PAY THE TRAVEL EXPENSES OF THE GOC PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDE THEIR ACCOMMODATIONS,

RATIONS, AND SCIENTIFIC SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, NO OTHER

FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PARTICIPANTS OR GOC FOR TWO REASONS. THE FIRST IS THAT THE FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND THE SECOND IS THAT THE US GOVT WILL NOT SPONSOR A RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR WHICH IT IS NECESSARY TO "BUY ACCESS" TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH.

---(B) THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL PART OF THE RESEARCH SHOULD BE PLACED IN PERSPECTIVE. THE MAJOR PART OF PHASE VII IS NOT REPEAT NOT ANTHROPOLOGICAL OR ARCHEOLOGICAL. A LIST IDENTIFYING THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR RESEARCH SPECIALTIES IS PROVIDED AT THE END OF THIS PARA TO DEMONSTRATE THIS FACT. ONLY DR. SCHULTES' PERSONAL RESEARCH IN ETHNOBOTANY CAN BE DESCRIBED AS ANTHROPOLOGICAL. DR. SCHULTES' ROLE AS CHIEF SCIENTIST
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ABOARD ALPHA HELIX IS A DIFFERENT MATTER AND SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH HIS PERSONAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES. SHORTLY AFTER THE SHIP'S ARRIVAL AT THE ANCHORAGE, DR. SCHULTES WILL LEAVE THE VESSEL AND SET OUT ON FOOT TO COLLECT AND OBSERVE PLANTS AND TO DISCUSS THEM WITH THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. THE REMAINDER OF THE SCIENTISTS WILL REMAIN ON BOARD OR ASHORE NEARBY TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE PLANTS, INSECTS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS FOR THEIR CHEMICAL, BIOCHEMICAL, TOXICOLOGICAL AND PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES. NONE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE EXPEDITION HAS BEEN PROVIDED FROM FUNDS FOR ANTHROPOLOGICAL OR ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECTS.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR RESEARCH SPECIALTIES:

BLUM - ENTOMOLOGY--INSECT PHYSIOLOGY; NATURAL PRODUCTS CHEMISTRY OF INSECTS
DALY - ORGANIC CHEMISTRY--BIOGENIC AMINES; CYCLIC NUCLEOTIDES; DRUG METABOLISM
FALES - ORGANIC CHEMISTRY--STRUCTURAL DETERMINATION OF NATURAL PRODUCTS
HOLMSTEDT - MEDICINE--TOXICODYNAMICS; DRUG METABOLISM
LINDGREN - PHARMACOLOGY/BIOCHEMISTRY--CHEMICAL COMPOSITION (ALKALOID COMPOUNDS); DRUG METABOLISM
MYERS - HERPETOLOGY--SYSTEMATICS OF NEOTROPICAL AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES
RIVIER - PHYTOCHEMISTRY--PLANT PHYSIOLOGY
SCHULTES - BOTANY--TAXONOMY OF ECONOMIC PLANTS OF THE NEW WORLD
SWAIN - BIOCHEMISTRY--CHEMISTRY OF NITROGEN HETEROCYCLICS; NATURALLY-OCCURRING PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS
WHEELER - ORGANIC CHEMISTRY--KETONES; SALTS; SYNTHESIS AND INTERACTIONS

OTHER POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS - PLOWMAN-ECONOMIC BOTANY/

SYSTEMATICS; SAAVEDRA-CHEMISTRY/PHARMACOLOGY
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---(C) SCHULTES HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THIS TYPE OF RE-
SEARCH IN COLOMBIA SINCE 1941 AND FOR 14 YEARS AS A
RESIDENT THERE. HE IS AN HONORARY PROFESSOR AT THE
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA WHERE HE HAS TAUGHT
ECONOMIC BOTANY. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE COLOMBIAN
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE ASSOCIATION OF COLOMBIAN
AGRONOMISTS. HE HAS BEEN DECORATED BY COLOMBIA WITH
THE ORDER OF VICTORIA REGIA FOR HIS AMAZONIAN RESEARCH.
HE IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE PREEMINENT SYSTEMATISTS
AND ECONOMIC BOTANISTS IN THE WORLD.

---(D) DR. SCHULTES' TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THIS EXPEDITION
IS \$800 FOR HIS AIRPLANE TICKET. HE RECEIVES NO SALARY
OR OTHER REMUNERATION FROM SCRIPPS OR THE NSF FOR THE
WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING PHASE VII.

4. (A) THE FACTS HAVE BEEN SUMMARIZED BASED ON INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY NSF, SCRIPPS AND THE EMBASSY. A RESPONSE
TO THE VERY BASIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE 2 DEC GOC NOTE
WOULD TAKE US BACK TO FIRST BASE. BASIC ASSUMPTIONS
WHICH SHOULD BE MADE BY THE EMBASSY BASED ON PREVIOUS
OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GOC ARE THAT:

1) THE GOC HAS APPROVED PHASE VII, 2) THE EXPEDITION
WILL ACCEPT ANY GOC PARTICIPANTS BUT NOT MORE THAN
FOUR, 3) TRAVEL, FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE PRO-
VIDED BY THE EXPEDITION, 4) ALL DETAILS AND INFORMATION
ON THE EXPEDITION HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED, 5) UPDATES
OF SCHEDULES WILL BE PROVIDED AS REQUIRED, AND 6) ALL
APPLICABLE PARTS OF DECREE 626 B HAVE BEEN AGREED TO
EXCEPT ARTICLE THREE.

---(B) DEPT SUGGESTS THAT A RESPONSE INCLUDE AT THE
EMBASSY'S DISCRETION THE ABOVE CITED ASSUMPTIONS.
IT APPEARS THAT THE QUESTION OF GOC PARTICIPATION RESTS
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SOLELY WITH THE GOC AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE
WHOMEVER THEY SELECT. FOR LOGISTICS AND ASSIGNMENT
OF SCIENTIFIC DUTIES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE
PARTICIPANTS NAMED IMMEDIATELY BUT IF THIS IS NOT
POSSIBLE WE WOULD AT LEAST LIKE TO BE INFORMED ASAP OF
THE EXACT NUMBER SO THAT LOGISTIC PROBLEMS COULD BE
SOLVED. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE GOC
WILL NAME SCIENTISTS WHO ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE

SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM.

---(C) IN RESPONDING TO THE 30 PERCENT CLAUSE OF ARTICLE THREE THE DEPT CAN ONLY SUGGEST THE POSITION PUT FORTH IN PARA 2 WHICH SHOULD BE STATED IN CLEAR TERMS SO THAT OUR POSITION IS NOT MISUNDERSTOOD. ETHICALLY, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE TERMS OF ARTICLE THREE WHICH REQUIRE A PERCENTAGE OF RESEARCH COSTS AS A DIRECT PAYMENT TO AN AGENCY OF THE GOC. THE POSITION OF SCRIPPS, NSF, AND THE USG IS NOT TO PROVIDE DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR THE RIGHT TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN STATED IN THIS CABLE. THIS POSITION IS FIRM AND CANNOT BE NEGOTIATED, WITH THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE, IF IT IS NOT ACCEPTED, BEING CANCELLATION OF PHASE VII. ADDITIONALLY, PHASE VII CANNOT BE DEFINED AS ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS ONLY A VERY SMALL PART IS CONCERNED WITH ANTHROPOLOGY AND THAT PART IS NOT BEING FUNDED EXCEPT FOR THE \$800 BEING USED FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES.

---(D) THE MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED OR UNDERESTIMATED. THE GOC WILL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL REPORTS AND DATA ACCRUING FROM THE RESEARCH, WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE GOC SINCE THE RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED IN THEIR OWN TERRITORY. THE US SCIENTISTS ARE HIGHLY RESPECTED EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELDS AND THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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INFORMATION WITH THEIR COLOMBIAN COLLEAGUES WILL BE ONE OF THE MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE RESEARCH. STRONG RELATIONSHIPS OFTEN DEVELOP BETWEEN THE SCIENTISTS WHICH LEAD TO FUTURE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

---(E) THE PROMPTNESS OF THE GOC RESPONSE TO YOUR NOTE OR VERBAL PRESENTATION IS CRITICAL AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY IS URGED TO PRESENT INFORMATION IN A MANNER WHICH RESULTS IN DECISIVE ACTION BY GOC WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE RECONFIRMATION THAT PHASE VII CAN BE INITIATED AND NAMING OF THE GOC AGENCY PARTICIPANTS.

5. BEGIN SUMMARY. DEPT REQUESTS THAT RESPONSE TO GOC NOTE BE AFFIRMATIVE AND SPECIFIC. ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS CABLE MAY BE USED WITH MOST DETAILS BEING SUMMARIZED IN PARA 4. PROMPT RESOLUTION IS CRITICAL FOR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS WITH ONUS ON GOC TO NAME PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDE DECISION ON ARTICLE 3 OF DECREE 626 B. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF SUBSTANCE ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY EMBASSY TO RESOLVE MATTER.
END SUMMARY.

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